



California State Parks

Quick Facts



Last updated 12/16/2004

California State Parks' Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division

- The Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division (OHVMR) was established in 1971 by the Chappie-Z'Berg Act.
- OHVMR is funded by sources directly related to off-highway vehicle (OHV) use: fuel tax revenue, fines and forfeitures, OHV registration, day use and camping fees at State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRAs), and interest. These funds are listed separately from those of California State Parks in the Governor's budget, and are used to manage OHV recreation.

California State Park OHV Units

Carnegie SVRA
Clay Pit SVRA (Operated by Lake Oroville SRA)
Heber Dunes OHV Area (Operated by Ocotillo Wells SVRA on Imperial County land)
Hollister Hills SVRA
Hungry Valley SVRA
Mammoth Bar OHV Area (Operated by Auburn SRA on Bureau of Reclamation land)
Oceano Dunes SVRA
Ocotillo Wells SVRA
Prairie City SVRA

- The OHVMR Commission was established by the Legislature in 1982. The Commission has seven members; three are appointed by the Governor, two by the Senate Rules Committee and two by the Speaker of the Assembly. The OHV Commission's duties are:
 - Approve funding for minor capital outlay projects
 - Approve funding for grants
 - General policy direction
 - Forum for public input
- Vehicles allowed in OHV parks are those legally certified for sale by the California Air Resources Board, and properly identified or registered in California. Vehicles with current out of state registration are allowed, but if the visiting enthusiast has no state requirement, they must purchase an "out of state permit" prior to operation in California. Examples of allowable vehicles include: ATVs, dirt bikes, dual-sport motorcycles, pickup trucks, sport utility vehicles (SUVs), go-carts, dune buggies and rails.



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- Gasoline powered pocket bikes (tiny motorcycles) and unsafe vehicles are not allowed.
- Vehicles are subject to restrictions at individual SVRAs and federally operated riding areas.
- The seven SVRAs and two off-highway vehicle areas in the State Park System offer a wide variety of recreation activities: dune riding, trails, hill climbing, hiking trails, groomed & un-groomed snow trails for snowmobiles, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, hiking, bird watching, horseback riding, driving, fishing, clamming, rock hounding where posted, and 4 wheel drive obstacle courses. ATV rentals are available at Prairie City SVRA and Oceano Dunes SVRA.
- The OHMVR Division places a high priority on education, conservation and enforcement efforts that balance OHV recreation impact with programs that conserve and protect cultural and natural resources. For example, in fiscal year 2003/2004, \$7,132,500 in conservation and restoration grants were awarded to county and federal land managers to assist them in managing Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation.
- Resource protection activities in SVRAs include: restoration areas, wildlife and cultural resource protection, wildlife monitoring programs, plant and wildlife inventories, cultural resource inventories, soil conservation, multi-agency coordination on resource projects, maintenance of wildlife corridors, law enforcement, signing and education.
- The Off-highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division celebrates the opportunity to serve its' visitors in many ways:
 - Off-Road PALS is a safety education program using youth-sized OHVs supported by a federal grant. The program teaches safe, responsible, operation of OHVs with special consideration for other enthusiasts and the environment.
 - Division staff develops displays for fairs and attend recreation shows (Off-road Expos etc.).
 - Each SVRA maintains a training area for enthusiasts to learn how to ride safely and responsibly. The ATV Safety Institute provides on-site ATV safety training and certification to provide enthusiasts the opportunity to meet the California State Certification requirements for operation of ATV's.
 - The Motorcycle Safety Foundation also certifies



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- enthusiasts through certified motorcycle safety education training at each of the SVRA training areas.
- Division staff develops and perform school programs, develop interpretive panels, newest technology and maintain self-guided hikes, and stay current with the equipment to answer questions from enthusiasts.
- Off-highway vehicle units are a clean, family-oriented opportunity to access public lands for responsible OHV recreation opportunities. Off-highway vehicle recreation presents exciting recreational opportunities for visitors of all ages.
- The economic impact of off-highway vehicle recreation in California is an important element to the state's economic recovery, and provides about \$3 billion in economic activity. The following are some examples:

OHV purchases	\$ 1.2 Billion
Accessories and equipment	\$ 491 Million
Fuel, parts, repairs, insurance, etc.	\$ 645 Million
Groceries, restaurants, & lodging	\$ 469 Million